



Vol. 46, No. 2 • 374th Airlift Wing • Yokota Air Base, Japan • Friday, Jan. 21, 2005

2 News Professional enlisted courses change
4 Commentary 'Take care of your own'
5 Feature Relief 'rolls out' with TALCE

Yokota deploys Airmen to support AEF

More than 100 depart families, base to continue efforts in Southwest Asia

By 1st Lt. Warren Comer
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 150 Airmen from the 374th Airlift Wing deployed to bases across Southwest Asia Jan. 12 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Many recent deployments from Yokota Air Base have tested the readiness of the wing as more than 250 Airmen are now supporting Operation Unified Assistance in Southeast Asia and another 40 Airmen deployed Jan. 3 to Southwest Asia.

"I'm proud of all the Airmen at Yokota who sacrifice so much to make the world a better place," said Col. Doug Kreulen, 374th AW commander. "We're proud that they're representing all of us here at Yokota, but anxious for their quick return to their families."

The colonel also said that Airmen at Yokota need to make sure

they stay focused on work ahead, especially the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection in May.

Yokota's Airmen are now serving in locations across the entire continent of Asia by providing safety, security and assistance in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Thailand and Indonesia.

"This is my first time (deployed). It's bittersweet. You get to support your country, but you don't want to leave your family," said Staff Sgt. Douglas Green, Jr., from the 374th Communications Squadron who deployed to Baghdad Dec. 12.

"It's a responsibility I'm willing to own up to."

Airmen aren't the only ones to experience what a deployment is like, family members get their own unique perspective while they maintain a household at home station.

"I'm a little nervous, but I know he'll be okay," said Crystal Thomas, wife of Senior Airman Brandon Thomas, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. "I've had a lot of offers for help from people (Brandon) works with and I'm using the Sunrise coupons booklet we were given."

The Family Support Center has a number of programs specifically for family members of deployed Airmen. Chaplains also stand ready to provide assistance.

Other helping agencies include Family Advocacy and Life Skills.

For more information about the programs and support the FSC offers, call 225-8725. To consult with a chaplain or seek spiritual guidance, call the base chapel during duty hours at 225-7009.



photo by 1st Lt. Warren Comer

First Lieutenant Adam Coyne, 374th Contracting Squadron, holds his daughter, Emily, while his wife, Misa, looks on. Lieutenant Coyne is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Approximately 190 Airmen from the 374th Airlift Wing have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism this month.

Samurai Wing integral to Unified Assistance

374th AEW creates AF village at Utapao

By Capt David Westover
 374th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

UTAPAO, Thailand – Deployed members assigned to the 374th Air Expeditionary Wing continue to provide airlift support to various regions throughout Southeast Asia.

"We will continue to provide assistance to the countries involved as long as we are needed and until the mission is complete," said Col. Mark Schissler, 374th AEW commander.

"We have an incredible team here performing an extremely important operation," he said.

"We're continuing to provide intra-theater airlift to Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other parts of Thailand," said Lt. Col Doug

Sevier, 374th AEW Operations Group commander. "We're executing a seamless air operation with our counterparts from the Japan Air Self Defense Force, the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and the Coast Guard."

As of Jan. 16, multinational military airlift assets have flown more than 1,600 sorties, delivered more than two million pounds of food, 110,000 gallons of water, and 1.5 million pounds of other relief supplies including medicine, construction equipment, water purification units, plastic sheeting and blankets in support of Operation Unified Assistance.

On the support side of the operation, members of the 374th Expeditionary Mission Support Group have established an "Air Force village" made up of 31

trailers to house the various wing functional staffs.

"This effort should greatly enhance our efficiency," said Lt. Col. Rick Lipsey, 374 EMSG commander. "Not only will we be closer to our assets on the flightline, but this move will also allow us to break away from the large open building that has been housing multi-service operations since the effort began here at the end of December.

"Our civil engineer and communications folks have done an outstanding job, working closely with the Marines, as well as the Thai contractors to set up this new operating location in a mere 10 days," said the colonel.

"The trailers will be configured with LAN and DSN lines as well as 220 volt power," said Capt. Rocky Wilson, 374th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Flight. "Our small but dedicated team has been working tirelessly to get everything up and running."

More than 250 personnel from Yokota's Samurai Wing are deployed in support of Operation Unified Assistance.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

Capt. James Wall, a C-130 pilot from the 36th Airlift Squadron, helps Royal Thai Air Force Airmen unload screens and other relief material after landing at Ranong, Thailand, Jan. 4, 2004. His crew delivered 18,000 pounds of relief material.



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

'Retiring' to the good life

Representatives of the base Veterans of Foreign Wars speak with local retirees during a retiree appreciation breakfast and fair. The event was held at the Enlisted Club Thursday. It featured organizations including the military personnel flight, Tricare, base legal office, Family Support Center, American Red Cross, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Commissary Agency, 374th Security Forces Squadron's pass and registration flight, and civilian personnel office. Topics such as the Status of Forces Agreement as well as volunteer and job opportunities were discussed during the breakfast. Col. Douglas Kreulen, 374th Airlift Wing commander, said the appreciation breakfast and fair was the first in more than two decades. Rod Bradish, the base retiree activities representative to the wing commander, said future appreciation breakfasts and fairs will be scheduled throughout the year. For more information about retiree activities, contact Mr. Bradish at 225-8324.

Course changes enhance enlisted professionals

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials recently standardized enlisted professional enhancement courses and changed the supervisory structure for career assistance advisers and First Term Airman's Center course managers.

These changes enhance enlisted professionals by linking formal training, education and on-the-job training to develop Airmen's technical skills and leadership abilities, officials said.

"We have tremendous talent within our ranks and we owe (Airmen) the opportunity

to develop their abilities and recognize their potential," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said.

More than two years ago, Chief Murray and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper created a developmental roadmap to grow capable leaders through exposure to the right training, education and experience. This led to the implementation of the Enlisted Professional Enhancement Program, officials said.

Before standardization, base commanders created a variety of education programs to augment professional military education.

There are now four standardized courses:

⇒ Senior NCO professional enhancement is designed for Airmen selected for master sergeant. This mandatory course must be at least three to five days long.

⇒ NCO professional enhancement targets NCOs who have not attended formal professional military education within the past three years. Half of each base's NCOs who meet the criteria must attend the course. Course length is also three to five days.

⇒ FTAC is designed for Airmen assigned to their first duty station. It lasts 10 to 15 duty days. All newly assigned Airmen must attend.

⇒ The Right Decision Seminar targets

first- and second-term Airmen, regardless of rank, who are 12 to 15 months away from their date of separation. Attendance for first-term Airmen is mandatory.

Air Force officials will complete the new instruction, AFI 36-2624, the Career Assistance Adviser and Enlisted Professional Enhancement Programs, before setting an implementation date for the new courses.

For more information about these courses and military career guidance, contact the 374th Airlift Wing career assistance adviser at 225-7829.

(Article provided by Air Force Print News.)

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Guam tour lengths change: RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The assistant secretary of defense has approved a tour length change to Guam.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, accompanied tours will change from 24 to 36 months, and unaccompanied tours will go from 15 to 24 months. This makes an assignment to the island a long tour versus a short tour.

Airmen who report to Guam before Dec. 31 will continue to receive short tour credit. Those reporting on or after Jan. 1 will serve the long tour.

Air Force charity ball set for March 12: WASHINGTON – The Air Force's official charity ball returns in 2005 after the 2004 event raised more than \$240,000 for the Air Force Aid Society.

The ball is set for March 12 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. The committee stops taking reservations Feb. 4.

For those close enough to attend, tickets range from \$50 to \$75 per person. Contact Linda Bolton at (703) 968-9061 or e-mail clbolton@juno.com, to buy tickets.

To learn more about AFAS, visit www.afas.org/.

ORI Countdown

121

**days until Yokota's
Operational Readiness Inspection**

Readiness 'Tip of the Week'

Individual Protective Equipment includes battle dress overgarments, gloves and inserts, overboots, field gear, helmet, gas mask, and decontamination kits.

AD

Program helps Airmen become officers

Tuition aid, monthly paycheck get enlisted through college to commission

By Staff Sgt. Calandra Battle
Air Force ROTC Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFPN) – In 2001, 2nd Lt. Christiane Makela was one step away from leaving the Air Force. At the time, she was a staff sergeant assigned to the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

She changed her mind and traded her stripes for gold lieutenant bars via the Airman Education and Commissioning Program.

The program offers active-duty enlisted Airmen the opportunity to

attend college on a full-time basis, complete degree requirements and earn a commission through Air Force ROTC.

Airmen selected for the program remain on active duty and are administratively assigned to an Air Force ROTC detachment, he said. Besides full pay and benefits, they receive a scholarship of up to \$15,000 per year for tuition and fees and an annual textbook allowance of \$600.

Airmen may participate in the program for one to three years, depending on their major, previous academic preparation and age.

To qualify for this program, Airmen must apply for one of the following majors:

- *Meteorology.*
- *Nursing.* Degrees must be accredited by the National League of Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.
- *Foreign languages.* Choices limited to Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, Hindi, Pashto, Armenian, Georgian, Azeri, Kazakh, Indonesian, Swahili, Hebrew, French and Turkish. Other languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- *Foreign area studies.* Options limited to Middle East, Africa, Asia and Russia/Eurasia. Area studies degree programs must include a requirement for foreign language courses in the region of study.

- *Mathematics.*
- *Physics.*
- *Computer science.*
- *Engineering.* Any program and concentration accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. All technical majors at the university the applicant plans to attend must be approved by the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The application deadline is March 1, and a selection board meets in April with results released in early May.

For eligibility requirements and more information, visit the base education office or go online to the military-restricted Web site at <http://afoats.maxwell.af.mil>.

(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Kudos

Congratulations to the following Kensei warriors in the Detachment 2, Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron for earning their unit's quarterly award distinction:

Senior Airman Vincent Camacho, Airman category; **Tech. Sgt. Andrew Bradford**, noncommissioned officer category; **Master Sgt. Roger Miles**, senior NCO category; **Janie Lockhart**, civilian category; **Yoshihisa Saito**, Japanese National category.

Congratulations to the following Kensei warriors in the Detachment 2, Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron for earning their unit's annual award distinction:

Senior Airman John Matanane, Airman category; **Tech. Sgt. Joseph Goldsmith**, NCO category; **Senior Master Sgt. Michael Breazell**, senior NCO category; **Janie Lockhart**, civilian category; **Masahiko Fujita**, Japanese National category.

Congratulations to the following Samurai warriors chosen as the 374th Mission Support Group fourth quarter award winners:

Senior Airman Christina Manuel, 374th Contracting Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Byron Ball**, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Senior Master Sgt. Freddy Estacion**, 374th Services Division; **1st Lt. Adam Coyne**, 374th CONS; **Kikuko Aoki**, 374th CONS; **Keisuke Kiyotaka**, 374th CONS.

First lieutenants selected for O-3

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The Air Force announced the results of a 2004 captain promotion process that selected 931 lieutenants for promotion to captain. A total of 949 lieutenants were considered.

The following first lieutenants from Yokota Air Base, Japan were selected:

James Best, 374th Operations Support Squadron;

Elizabeth Dewinter, 374th Medical Operations Squadron;

Michael Gerstner, 36th Airlift Squadron;

Courtney Holland, 5th Air Force;

Gregory Holmgren, 374th Security Forces Squadron;

Yolanda Nixon, AFLEM;

Jennifer Whetstone, 459th Airlift Squadron; and

Laura Yardley, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service.)

AD

'Take care of your own'

Officer learns essentials from chief master sergeant

By Maj. Trevor Gray
374th Maintenance Squadron
commander

My first mentor was a chief master sergeant. He was old, crusty, surly, gruff, and swore way too much, but I liked him even though he often told me that he had been in the military longer than I had been alive.

As a young lieutenant, my boss told me to "be my chief's shadow," and learn from him. I was, and I did. Like a lost puppy, wherever he went, I followed.

Our days began at "o-dark" thirty, with him having a cigarette and a soda while getting "the real [expletive] turn over" out at the smoking table which overlooked the flight line. Although I detested the smell and taste of smoke, I soon began to look forward to those mornings with the chief. He never seemed to tell me what to do, but would simply tell stories and let me infer their meanings.

After one particularly hideous story where deployed maintainers had been left stranded with no

hotel after fixing the aircraft, no one to contact, and no transportation, he gave me one piece of advice that I've never forgotten: take care of your own.

Chief, wherever you are now, I've never forgotten.

Taking care of your own encompasses so many different things. For example, just prior to the holidays, I remember asking what was going to be done for our younger dorm residents. How were they going to be taken care of? What would they get and the like?

The best answer I received was that there was a cookie drive. I heard the Chief say, take care of your own. I did.

The squadron cooked, baked, and bought more than 1,500 cookies, candies, pieces of fudge, and brownies. We put it all together in bags with bows and little streamers, personalized name tags and made them into a gift. For some, I figured, this might be the only gift they received for the holidays, so we tried to make it special. It was.

Take care of your own.

As the chief explained so many years ago, taking care of your own encompasses so much more. Currently, the wing is heavily tasked. We have sent out hundreds of people in support of tsunami relief and continue to deploy Airmen for Air Expeditionary Forces 3 and 4.

Obviously, those who remain on station will need to accomplish the work of those deployed, and their families will feel the stress of longer work hours and the additional strain. Moreover, the families of those deployed will need even more help.

Check on your folks. Look them in the eye and see how they are doing. Never miss an opportunity to take care of your own.

Throughout my career, I have been in meetings where personnel have been involved in negative circumstances. In almost every instance, there was a decision making point, where that person went down the wrong path. Without exception, there were other military personnel in the vicinity, yet they did nothing. We seem to have forgotten that we are in a foreign country, thousands of miles from home and dependent upon each other. "Your own" is us – all of us, which is larger than a flight or even a squadron. We are

Samurai warriors; we are one military, and we are a team. We are responsible for each other. I've lost count how many times I have heard "He's a grown man," "I'm not his mother," and "I can lead a horse to water, but I can't make him drink." Yes, he is a grown man, and no, you aren't his mother, but in the military, you are your brother's keeper. It may be difficult or uncomfortable to point out the err of your brother's ways, but that is what we must do. We take care of our own. He will thank you for it later.

On the morning of the chief's retirement, I asked him if there is one thing that I should always remember. He said, "Lieutenant, if I never leave you with anything else, remember this: mission first, people always. Take care of your own."

I never forgot the words of wisdom the chief shared with me that day. And now, I share them with you. Can you imagine what kind of world this would be if everyone looked out for one another? It would definitely be a better place, a better America, and maybe even a better world. The possibilities are endless, but it all starts with you.

Chief, I haven't forgotten.
Take care of your own.

America at its best: providing relief

By Col. Michael Boera
374th Airlift Expeditionary Wing vice commander

At various times throughout my 23 years in the Air Force, I have taken the opportunity to write back to my family and friends in my hometown and back to my home base about the current operation I am involved with.

My editorials included my personal thanks for the support I received from folks during Desert Storm, discussed my perspective of combat air operations over Northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort, and discussed my heart-felt thoughts after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America.

Today, I write to Team Yokota since you have "drafted" me on to your team.

I write from Royal Thai Navy Air Station, Utapao, where I have joined other proud members of the Samurai in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian relief mission in support of the tsunami victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

I have made a livelihood of flying F-16 combat aircraft and am currently stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan. A couple of weeks ago, I was preparing to fly a local combat training mission when I received a call from my boss, the 35th Fighter Wing commander. I

was basically told to get some shots and pack my bags because I was being sent to Thailand to help stand up the 374 Air Expeditionary Wing.

About 24 hours later, I landed at Utapao airfield. The mission of the wing is to aid in the massive humanitarian effort as a result of the tsunami in Asia. We also provide leadership and support to the intra-theater airlift units sprinkled around workable airfields in the affected countries which have provided the "blue collar" effort delivering critical relief help and supplies to those in need. We are the Air Force piece of Combined Support Force 536, commanded by a Marine lieutenant general. I had never been involved in a humanitarian relief effort

before and now I am involved in one rivaling just about any relief effort – ever!

It has been my honor to serve in such an operation with such a proud organization as the 374th Airlift Wing out of Yokota Air Base. As much as I miss being away from my family

and flying the F-16 at Misawa, it gives me great satisfaction to be involved in a relief and recovery operation versus the typical combat operation I am so familiar with, and which usually involves some sort of destruction. This is America at its best!

This relief operation is probably not the lead story in the States any longer. Please keep in mind, the mission continues and we will stay here until our job is done.

Obviously, we are involved with the U.S. military aspect of the mission. We are but one piece of the puzzle to bring much-needed disaster relief to the victims.

When I do, I hope to pick up where I left off. I will be back with my family and be climbing into the cockpit of an F-16 to

once again train for combat operations.

Until then, I am proud to be a part of this relief mission with the Samurais of Yokota – and Team Yokota should be proud of the dedicated effort of all its deployed Airmen as well. It is America at its best!

"I am proud to be a part of this relief mission with the Samurais of Yokota – and Team Yokota should be proud of the dedicated effort of all its deployed Airmen as well."

Col. Michael Boera
374th Airlift Expeditionary Wing,
vice commander



Published by Kaoru Corp. Design Office, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive contract with the 374th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service. Contents of the Fuji Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Kaoru Corp. Design Office of the products advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, martial status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

All photographs used in the Fuji Flyer are official Air Force photographs, unless otherwise indicated.

How to reach us

Editorial content is prepared by the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 315, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Phone: 225-8833

Fax: 225-4867

Mail to: 374 AW/PA, Unit 5078, APO AP 96326-5078 or send to: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil

Deadlines

The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

Editorial staff

Col. Douglas Kreulen
374th Airlift Wing commander

Capt. David Westover
Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Warren Comer
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh
Asst. Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Bertha Belton
NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
Chief, Internal Information

Airman 1st Class
Katie Thomas
Editor

Kaoru Corp. Design Office
Publisher

DUI Prevention

Jan. 1 – Jan. 17	0
Total DUIs in January	0
Total in 2005	0

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!

Relief ‘rolls out’ with TALCE help

Inset, Master Sgt Jeff Wisley, a member of the Pacific Air Force Tactical Airlift Control Element, Yokota Air Base, Japan, marshalls a C-5 Galaxy aircraft from the 60th Airlift Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

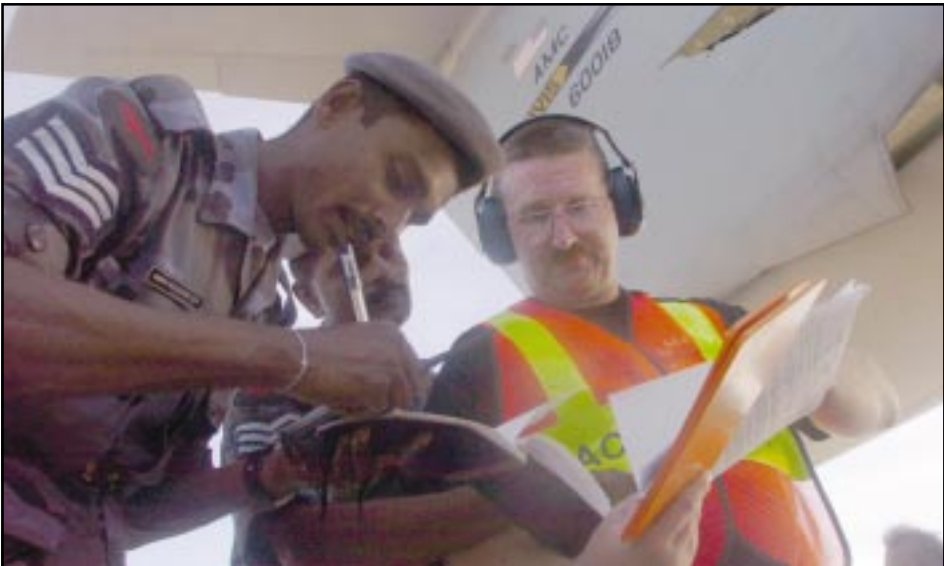
Bottom left, Sergeant Wisley prepares to unload heavy equipment inside the C-5 aircraft that landed at Bandanaike International Airport, Sri Lanka, during tsunami relief operations here. U.S. military personnel are helping transport relief supplies and equipment to various locations in Sri Lanka.

Bottom right, Tech. Sgt. Ed Smith, right, PACAF TALCE, together with Sri Lankan Air Force Sgts. Y.M. Premaratna, left, and S. Bandara Ekanayaka, check the aircraft’s cargo manifest.



photos by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Above, U.S. Air Force personnel unload heavy equipment from a C-5 Galaxy aircraft from the 60th Airlift Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., that just landed at Bandanaike International Airport, Sri Lanka, during tsunami relief operations there.



AD

AFN outage

The failure of an international communications satellite Saturday caused U.S. government audiences in the Asia-Pacific region to lose normal access to American Forces Network programming. There are also a million people on Pacific islands without international phone, radio and TV.

According to AFRTS officials, the satellite owner/operator continues to work on restoring full AFN service to the Pacific region.

Officials also stated that, thanks to the great efforts of the Pacific-region AFN affiliates, outlets and network commands, the only areas totally without TV service are off base in Tokyo and Sasebo, Japan. Other areas are being provided over-the-air TV for off-base residents. All DoD employees residing on base in Japan should have three TV channels (AFN Prime, AFN News, and AFN Sports) via an alternate programming source.

For more information, visit www.myafn.net.

Off base

Through Saturday: An Italian Festival is being held at the Tokyo Dome. It features arts and crafts from the European country, along with a theater presentation and traditional Italian food. The cost is 1,500 yen per person. For more information, visit <http://italia.yomiuri.co.jp> or call 035-159-5910.

February: Yokohama's China Town is holding its annual New Year's celebration Feb. 8-9 and 12-19, with festivities wrapping up Feb. 23. The celebration includes parades, countdown and traditional New Year's activities. For more information, call 045-662-1252.

On Base

Movies

Today – *Racing Stripes*, PG, 6 p.m., *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Racing Stripes*, PG, 6 p.m., *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday – *Racing Stripes*, PG, 2 p.m., *Alexander*, R, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, R, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Racing Stripes*, PG, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Alexander*, R, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. For more information, call 225-8708.

Bilateral concert

The Fussa-Yokota Goodwill Exchange Club is hosting a free friendship concert Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Fussa Civic Hall. The Band of the Pacific-Asia's Pacific Showcase and the Fussa Brass Band will perform. Admission is free. For more information, call 042-551-2927.

Volunteers needed

Community members are needed as Unit Tax Assistants. Military members who are interested in helping should contact their first sergeant. Civilian and dependent volunteers should contact the base legal office at 225-8069.

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help at the base Air Mobility Command terminal. For more information or to volunteer, call 225-8631.

The Yokota Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization* needs volunteers to help run an antique sale Feb. 26 in the YMS gym. For

more information or to volunteer, e-mail rrs@yta.attmil.ne.jp or call 225-9671.

Induction ceremony

An induction ceremony for Yokota's newest chief master sergeants is scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Enlisted Club beginning at 6 p.m. Community members interested in attending the ceremony should RSVP to their respective chief or group superintendent by Saturday. For more information, call 225-4356.

Self-help store

The base Samurai self-help store has changed its hours to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will remain open during wing exercises Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

YCC ramp closure

The Yokota Community Center ramp is closed 8 to 11 a.m. daily and open with one-lane of traffic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The closure continues through Feb. 8

Workshop

The Yokota East Elementary and Middle Schools are sponsoring a workshop for parents on coping with the deployment of a spouse Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Family Advocacy will present the workshop. For more information, call 225-8982 or 225-6192.

Auditions

The Yokota Players* are holding open auditions for the 1950s musical "Grease" Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. Acting, chorus and production crew roles are available.

For more information, e-mail yokota_players@yahoo.com.

Meetings

The Sons of Hawaii* private organization meets the third Saturday of each month. The meetings are open to all community members. For more information,

SANDBOX WARRIOR



OF THE WEEK



Senior Airman Aron Lee

Senior Airman Aron Lee, 36th Airlift Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of courage in the face of danger, superior self control, and sympathy toward all people.

Airman Lee is currently deployed on his fifth Operation Enduring Freedom combat tour. He volunteered and was selected for the 36th AS first deployment in support of operations in Afghanistan. In the combat zone, he is charged with safely onloading and offloading war fighters and their equipment. Over the past month, Airman Lee has transported more than 600 passengers and 95 tons of cargo on 48 combat flights.

call 225-2877.

The Yokota Filipino-American Association is holding its general membership meeting Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. at the traditional chapel. For more information, call 227-3513.

Closure

The base Auto Skills Center will only be opened Jan. 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 225-7623.

School-related events

The Yokota Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization* is sponsoring a winter dance Jan 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the YMS cafeteria. Volunteers are needed to chaperone and sell refreshments. For more information, call 225-9671.

Girl Scouts*

The base Girl Scout* troop is holding its annual cookie sale through Feb. 28 at locations including the Yokota Community Center, shoppettes and the post office.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Reconciliation, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m. and by appointment. Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m., 5 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service at 6:30 p.m.

Other faiths: Baha'i, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Other faiths: Seventh Day Adventist, second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Islam, Fridays at noon.

For more information on the chapel schedule, call 225-7009 during duty hours.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. All POs and PO activities are not endorsed by or affiliated with the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

Did you know?

Remember the rules that apply to creating a computer password to use a government computer: minimum of eight characters; must include lowercase and upper case letters, numbers and symbols; must be changed every 90 days.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I prefer fast foods.”

Rocky Ridges,
explaining why he
doesn't eat snails

Baseball: The Yokota Hawks baseball club is holding tryouts for four positions at 1 p.m. Feb. 27 at Yokota Field. The team plays in area tournaments, and games go through November. Players must be 18 years or older. For more information, call 090-1949-7796 or e-mail dcapps@asia.umuc.edu.

Ice hockey: The Yokota Raiders varsity ice hockey team is looking for new players to join its team. For more information, e-mail brian.batson@yokota.af.mil or visit www.yokotapirates.com.

Bowling: Tomodachi Lanes is hosting an Xtreme Glow Karaoke bowling night Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$12 per lane, including free shoe rental with a maximum of five people per lane.

The base bowling center is also holding a men and women nine-pin, no-tap single-elimination tournament Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. The entry fee is \$15 per person. For more information, call 225-7615.

Youth baseball/softball: The Yokota Youth Center is enrolling youth ages 5 to 15 for its upcoming spring baseball and softball season. Sign-ups are Feb. 1 to 15 at the youth center from 5 to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The season runs April through June. For more information, call 225-7021.

Natorium: The base Natatorium will be closed Feb. 10 until 11:30 a.m. for water survival training, and all day Feb. 19 for a swim meet. For more information, call 225-2282.

Track, field season kicks off

All-Comers meet features record-breaking events

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFP) – The Air Force track and field team opened the 2005 season with an impressive showing at the All-Comers Meet here Jan. 15.

The Falcons picked up seven first-place finishes in their season debut, including a win from Olivia Korte, who set a new Academy weight throw record in the process.

On the men's side, Air Force claimed top honors in three events, highlighted by the top-four sweep in the pole vault. Paul Gensic topped out at 17 3/4 to win the pole vault, while Makisi Haleck and Christian Morgan finished second and third, with respective heights of 16-6 3/4 and 15-7. Jason Jones completed the sweep with a fourth-place height of 15-1.

In the lanes, Travis Piccou won the 200-meter dash, clocking a time of 22.15 seconds – a debut just shy of the program's top-10 list. And from the field, Rich Ellis won the

weight throw with a toss of 49-4 1/4.

The women's pole vault also had a stellar performance when Erin Richardson set a new career-best height, clearing the bar at 11-5 3/4. Topping her previous best, Richardson moved closer to the academy record of 12 1/2 set in 2001.

Dominique Boivin won the shot put with a throw of 41-6 1/2, while Korte, who finished third in the shot, took top honors in the weight throw at 53-11 3/4, setting a new personal and academy record with the toss.

Korte led a sweep of the top-three spots in the weight throw, as Kristine Muth and Priscilla Giddings finished second and third, with marks of 48-1 1/4 and 46-7 1/4.

From the track, Dierra Poland won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.82 seconds -- just 0.01 off of her career-best time.

The Falcon men also picked up several top-three finishes, including Piccou, who recorded a distance of 21-1 1/4 in the long jump

to take third. Matt Pinson picked up second-place finishes in the shot put (42-0) and weight throw (39-8 1/2). Nick Luina took third in the 400-meter dash, clocking a time of 49.73. Derek Storbeck claimed third in the 3,000-meter run, with a time of 9 minutes 07.48 seconds.

A pair of Air Force 4X400-yard relay teams finished second and third in the event, as Erik Wallace, Brian Walsh, Morgan and Chris Gausepohl crossed the line at 3:30.41. Jonathan Myers, Billy Flynt, Bruce Fritz and Matt Gensic finished at 3:30.66.

The women's 4X400-yard relay teams also earned second and third-place marks. Kim Brady, Genelle Chapman, Deb Durey and Ayana Floyd-James finished second at 4:11.23, while Jami Hodge, Paula Maffey, Nikita Martin and Rachael McIntosh finished third at 4:15.21.

The Falcons compete at home Jan. 21 for a two-day event as hosts at the Air Force Invitational.

Several members of the academy's pole vault team will travel to Reno, Nev., for the U.S. Track and Field Pole Vault Summit, which also runs Jan. 21 to 22.

For updates throughout the season, visit www.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

'Frostbite' freezes runners, traffic

Yokota Striders event still going strong after 24 years

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

More than 10,000 Japanese civilians will flood through Yokota's supply gate Jan. 30 for the annual Frostbite race.

The event is sponsored by the Yokota Striders Running Club, a private organization located here. It is held at the end of January each year to raise money for community organizations and scholarship funds.

The Frostbite includes a half-marathon and an adult 5K run.

Roads around the Supply

Gate, Yokota Middle School and Yokota High School will be extremely congested between 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

From 9 to 10:15 a.m. the roads around the furniture mart, Par 3 and Auto Hobby Shop will be congested. McGuire Avenue will close at 10:15 a.m.

Traffic traveling from the east housing area to the south, north and west areas will be detoured around and through the race areas.

The North Overrun will be closed from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the half-marathon. Community



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Hundreds of runners take off for the half-marathon event during the 2004 Yokota Striders' Frostbite event. This year more than 10,000 Japanese participants will be on base for the Frostbite races.

members must use the South Over-run during these hours.

Davis Avenue will be closed south of Deseversky Avenue,

along with the southbound lane of Airlift Avenue to the AMC terminal. For more information, call 225-9628.

AD